

Appin. No. 10/748,047

Attorney Docket No. 5709-168

II. Remarks

The Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's Answer mailed August 2, 2007, and requests entry of the foregoing amendment and consideration of the following remarks, which are responsive to all outstanding actions and issues in this case.

Claims 1 through 21 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 15 and 21 have been amended. No new claims have been added. Accordingly, twenty-one claims are pending and under consideration.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Laughman reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,783,312). The Office Action and the Laughman reference have been considered in detail by the undersigned.

With regard to independent claim 1, claim 1 recites that the first region is longitudinally distinct from the second region so that different parts of the weatherstrip spaced along the length of the weatherstrip have different flexibilities. It is respectfully submitted that the Laughman reference fails to disclose such a metal carrier as claimed. The regions Laughman's reinforcing strip 30 as identified in the Office Action (namely the top, bottom and middle portions as viewed in FIG. 3 of the Laughman reference) are not longitudinally distinct. Rather, the Laughman reference discloses a reinforcing strip 30 that has different flexibility in its lateral direction (along its width) (i.e. left to right in FIGS. 1 and 2).

For at least this reason, favorable reconsideration of independent claim 1, and its dependent claims, is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 8 recites first and second longitudinally extending regions, the first region being longitudinally spaced from the second region. To the contrary,

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in the reinforcing strip 30 of the Laughman reference, the top, middle and bottom regions (as viewed in FIG. 3) are not longitudinally spaced.

For at least this reason, favorable reconsideration of independent claim 8, as well as its dependent claims, is respectfully requested.

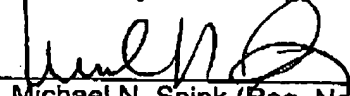
Independent claim 15 recites a carrier having first and second longitudinally extending regions having first and second flexibilities that are distinct from one another, and further that the first and second regions have substantially uniform flexibility along their respective widths. To the contrary, the Laughman reference explicitly discloses a reinforcing strip having different flexibilities along its width, and in particular because of the differently structured regions along the width of the strip. For at least this reason, all elements of independent claim 15 are not disclosed in the Laughman reference. Favorable reconsideration of independent claim 15, as well as its dependent claims, is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the specification is in order and that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that personal contact would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the Attorney of the Applicant at the earliest convenience of the Examiner.

6/10/08
Date

Respectfully submitted,


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